

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 15-18 and 20-28 are pending in this application Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 15-18 and 20-28 are amended. The amendments to the claims add no new matter. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Vu in the August 23, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the personal interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 15-18 and 20 are amended, in part, in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions made during the interview.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 15-18 and 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,839,879 to Hwang. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hwang teaches a system and method for time-stamping and managing electronic documents (Abstract). All references to a certificate in Hwang are understood to relate to a certificate generator generating "a time-certified digital certificate that seals the document and returns the certificate to the requester" (col. 3, lines 46-48, emphasis added).

Independent claim 1, and in like manner independent claims 4, 5, 8, 15-18 and 20, recites, among other features, a receiving part that receives a personal certificate associated with an individual user; a verifying part that verifies the received personal certificate based on the digital signature technique; an extracting part that extracts at least one of a plurality of predetermined elements in a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and a determining part that determines an access right of the individual user based on a value of at least one of the plurality of predetermined elements, wherein ... because the access right is

determined based on the extracted element value, accessing a database or a directory service to determine the access right access is unnecessary.

Hwang neither teaches nor suggests the combination of the above listed features.

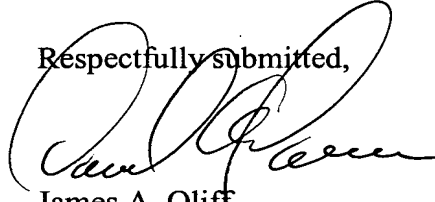
Applicants' representative discussed the claim amendments, and the above argument, with Examiner Vu during the August 23 personal interview. The Examiner suggested incorporating the last feature in the claim amendments in order to better distinguish the subject matter recited in the claims over the prior art references applied in this Office Action, and those previously applied throughout prosecution of this application.

Based on the foregoing, any combination of the currently applied or previously applied prior art references cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or even to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features recited in independent claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 15-18 and 20. Additionally, claims 2, 6, 9-11 and 21-28 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by any combination of the applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims on the above-enumerated independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter which each of these claims recites.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 15-18 and 20-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III  
Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT/fpw

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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